

bipartisan compromise that this bill represents.

I do not question the motivation of Members who have sought or will seek to offer and support these issues, but I am positive that the passage of such amendments will jeopardize bipartisan support of this bill. I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), my ranking member, for his leadership and many hours of hard work on what is a major piece of legislation.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman BOEHNER), he did yeoman's service; and the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK); the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER); the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE); the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON); and the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) for their hard work on this bill. They and their staffs, along with Sandy Kress from the White House, deserve a tremendous amount of credit for this truly bipartisan bill.

I am proud of this bill. I am pleased with having worked with those on both sides of the aisle. I think all of us share that pride, and the children of this country will be better for it.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Chairman, I am happy to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON), the chairman of the Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1, the President's number one priority, the Leave No Child Behind Act, because we cannot let this opportunity pass us by.

This bill was a long time coming. We started the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in the last Congress under the previous administration. After 2 years of debate and several pieces of legislation, we were unable to put a package together.

So today, under the leadership of President Bush, the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman BOEHNER); the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), ranking member; the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), the subcommittee chairman; the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), the ranking member; and several other members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, we bring H.R. 1 to the floor to begin the process of instituting historic changes to our schools and new opportunities for our Nation's children.

Throughout the legislation, H.R. 1 maintains the four pillars of President Bush's education reform plan: accountability, flexibility and local control, research-based reform, and expanded parental options.

Specifically, I would like to talk about two issues which fall under my jurisdiction as chairman of the Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness, teacher training and education technology.

First, the teacher title builds upon legislation that I, along with the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), current ranking member, authored in the last Congress, the Teacher Empowerment Act. This title provides school districts with the flexibility to decide whether to spend funds on hiring new teachers or improving the skills of the teachers already in the classroom.

In my home State of California, they have already reduced class sizes in the early grades, which is good news. The bad news is that, as a result, there are over 35,000 uncertified teachers now serving in the classroom.

□ 1100

Under H.R. 1, we leave it up to the local school districts to decide what their needs are, while at the same time, calling on them to work towards ensuring that there is a fully qualified teaching force in our classrooms.

Second, in regards to technology, the bill consolidates a number of technology programs into a single stream of funding to our local school districts. This is another important element of expanded local control and flexibility.

Further, we call on recipients to work to fully integrate technology into the curriculum by increasing access to the highest quality teachers and courses possible, regardless of where in the State the students live.

One of my local school districts is already doing this. The Los Angeles County Office of Education has instituted the NCITE program, which stands for National Center for the Improvement of Tools for Educators, California. NCITE is a Web-based learning environment which helps children meet or exceed grade level standards in reading and mathematics. It also assists teachers in the use of research-based assessments, media resources and technology tools. We need to encourage other communities to use these type of tools to educate their children. I believe H.R. 1 does just that.

I wish I had more time to talk about the many other provisions in this bill that will make a real difference in our education system and the work that has gone into making this happen.

But in closing, I would like to say to all of my colleagues that this bill gives us an opportunity; an opportunity to support our President, an opportunity to show bipartisanship, and, most importantly, an opportunity to improve the lives of our Nation's schoolchildren.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER), a member of the core group that helped put together this bill.

(Mr. ROEMER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Chairman, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from Michigan, for yielding me this time.

I want to start off by saying that there are many slogans, many

mantras, many shibboleths that many people use to try to describe their concern for our children and trying to improve our public schools in this Nation. A number of us on both sides of the aisle have come together in a bipartisan way to put a bill together; that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK), myself, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON), and others have fragilely put together a delicate balance that puts together new ideas, new reforms, new vision to help our children get a better education.

Those core ideas revolve around three concepts: One is accountability; that we cannot continue to do things the same old way in this country and expect great vast new improvements from our teachers and our children and in their performances together. We must attach these requirements to new ideas and new accountability, and that means, yes, some standards and some tests.

Now, those tests should be devised by our local schools and our States, but making sure we do not socially promote; making sure that children are learning from one grade to the next and that a degree means something when they get out of high school. These are important standards.

Second, flexibility, that local schools get the dollars and they decide how the dollars are spent. In this bill, H.R. 1, the base bill, we send the dollars directly to the classroom, not to a governor, not to a bureaucracy, not to administration, but to the classroom.

Now, we are going to have a straight A's proposal that wants to divert the dollars to the governors. We will argue adamantly that those dollars should go to the teachers and the classrooms and the kids.

The third component of this is resources. We have doubled the funding for title I, for the poorest children in this Nation to get good access to a good solid education. These resources and investments are important because some of these children will not pass tests, so we need to remediate those children with after-school programs, summer-school programs and, yes, with tutoring.

Accountability, flexibility, resources for remediation, all good ideas coming together to support a bill that the President of the United States has encouraged bipartisanship on; that he has encouraged that we work together in a civil manner, where Democrats and Republicans can reach across the aisle, as we have done with this core group, to bring this bill to the floor.

I would hope accountability, flexibility, new resources, new investments for remediation and tutoring will bring together bipartisan support on this